



7906 Davenport Street  
Omaha, NE 68114-3678

[www.omahamedical.com](http://www.omahamedical.com)

Phone 402.393.1415  
Fax 402.393.3216

## Metropolitan Omaha Medical Society Public Statement

Amidst a global pandemic, many communities, including ours, are experiencing resistance to following the advice of experts in epidemiology and infectious disease. The number of documented COVID-19 infections in the U.S. has climbed to more than 3.9 million. The death toll in the United States is currently at approximately 145,000.

If we take a look in the mirror and check our nation's report card on controlling the pandemic, we find that the United States has roughly 4.25% of the world population, yet we account for 26% of the world's documented COVID-19 infections, and 23% of the world's associated deaths. Nebraska currently has more than 23,000 confirmed cases and 311 deaths.

Experts at various institutions, including the Mayo Clinic, have demonstrated the benefit of wearing a mask or face covering to limit the spread of COVID-19. Currently 41 states have some form of regulation for wearing masks, and those states that have prematurely re-opened their communities and failed to enforce recommended guidelines have experienced significant increases in cases and deaths related to COVID-19.

Along with other public health organizations such as the American Medical Association, the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control, the Nebraska Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, and the American Nursing Association, the Metropolitan Omaha Medical Society again reminds our citizens that it is crucial to wear a mask or face covering in public, practice social distancing, and wash your hands.